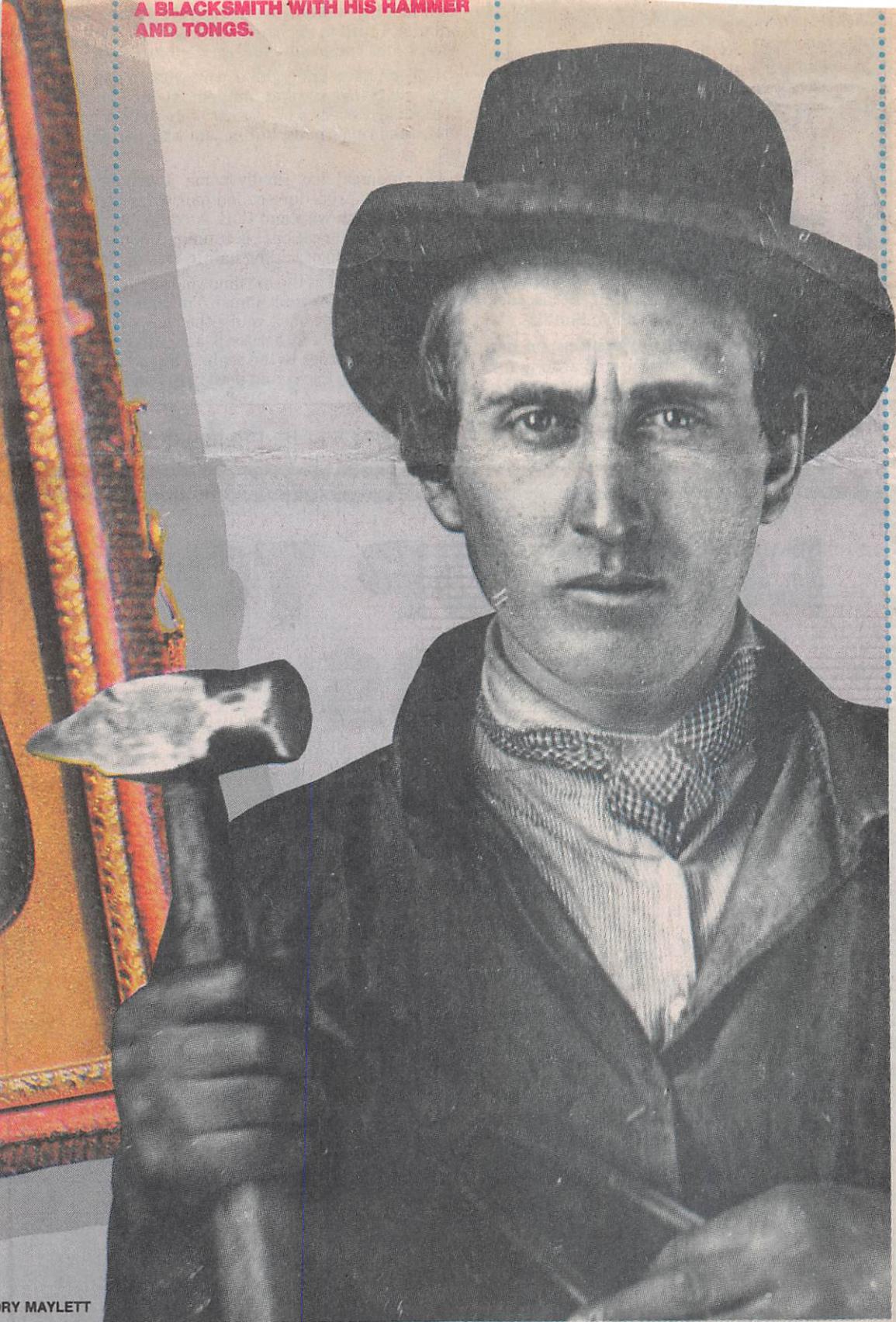


A BLACKSMITH WITH HIS HAMMER  
AND TONGS.





**ERMA  
BOMBECK**

When many women fantasize, it's usually about Dolly Parton's waist, Cher's cheekbones or Donna Mills' eyes. Not me. I have a Catherine Deneuve hair wish. I dream of hair long enough on the sides and the top to pull all the way back and secure in a bun. I see a hairstyle so classic, I wear glasses all day in a futile attempt to conceal my beauty. At night, when I remove one single hairpin, it cascades down my back and I turn into Jaclyn Smith.

Every time I see Crystal Gayle sitting on her hair, I say, "Why not me?" If I waited around for the answer, I'd know why. I have no patience. The moment my hair touches my ears or neckline, I begin to twist and play with it until it becomes a wild, zinging appendage with a mind of its own. At the end of a month or so, I have 157 lengths and

look like my mother made a career cutting gum out of it. I rush to my hairdresser and say, "Forget what I told you about Audrey Hepburn. Cut!"

I never have understood why women can nip, tuck, rearrange, inflate, implant, reduce and replace nearly every part of their body right down to their fake fingernails, but instant hair has eluded us.

Our moment has finally come. I've just read about a new procedure called hair extension that does away with wigs and falls. A company named Pivot Point International is training salon owners on the technique of adding hair to existing manes.

Africans created the art thousands of years ago. (Do not try this in your home!) The hair is parted horizontally in the back, and either human or synthetic hair is placed across it and woven into a cornrow, very close to the scalp. The interlocking of hair is really tricky and uses twists and locks to

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*Coleen Eyre*

